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**PHOTOGRAPHIC  
INTERPRETATION  
REPORT**

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC  
INTERPRETATION CENTER**

**CONSTRUCTION STATUS OF THE TAN-ZAM  
(GREAT UHURU) RAILROAD**

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## CONSTRUCTION STATUS OF THE TAN-ZAM (GREAT UHURU) RAILROAD

### ABSTRACT

1. The People's Republic of China has been constructing a single track, 3'6" gauge rail line in East Africa that will link the copper-producing region of landlocked Zambia to the Tanzanian Port of Dar Es Salaam on the Indian Ocean.

2. This report describes the construction status of the rail line in Tanzania and Zambia based on photography of July and August 1972 [ ] and of November 1972 [ ]

The report contains text, a location map, tables, and annotated photographs.

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### INTRODUCTION

3. The Tan-Zam railroad is the largest Chinese aid project on the continent of Africa. Approximately 301 nautical miles (nm) (approximately 350 statute miles) of the rail line had been completed in Tanzania [ ] (Figure 1). On that date, track had been laid to a point approximately 4 nm northeast of the town of Makumbaku (Figure 2).

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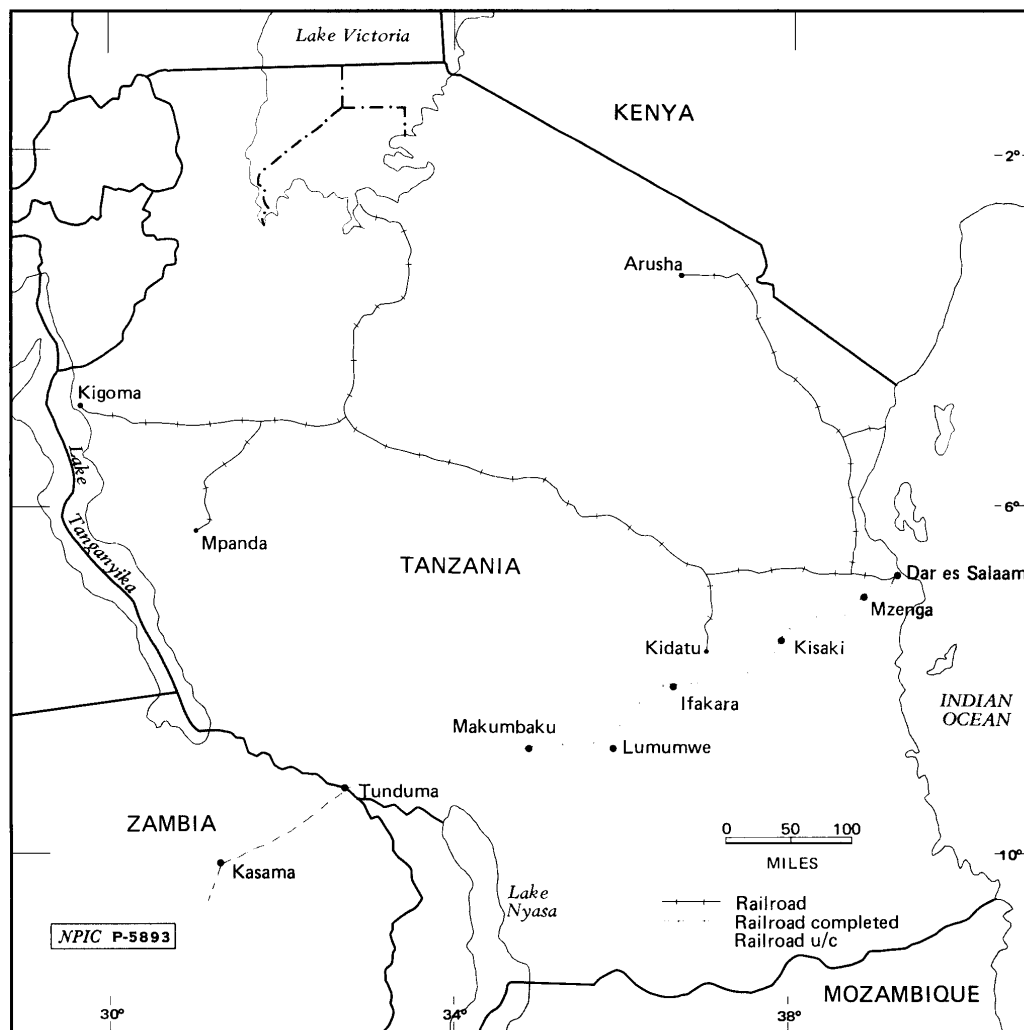


FIGURE 1. TAN-ZAM RAILROAD

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4. The only photographic coverage of construction activity within Zambia is of the Kasama-to-Tunduma section. Photography of 3 November showed that approximately 40 nm of nonconsecutive roadbed had been prepared. The limit of construction was 2 nm south of the mission settlement of Kayambi (09-27-20S 031-59-50E) in Zambia's northern province.

5. Table 1 is a partial list of support camps, stations, and support facilities along the rail line and their locations. Table 2 is a partial list of bridges on the rail line, their locations, and the rivers that they cross.

#### BASIC DESCRIPTION

6. For the purposes of this report, the Tan-Zam railroad has been divided into the following segments:

- 1) Dar Es Salaam - Mzenga, 36 nm (operational)
- 2) Mzenga - Kisiaki, 75 nm (operational)
- 3) Kisiaki - Ifakaru, 67 nm (operational)
- 4) Ifakaru - Lumumwe, 73 nm (operational)
- 5) Lumumwe - Makumbaku, 50 nm (operational)
- 6) Makumbaku - Tunduma, 126 nm (under construction)

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7. Dar Es Salaam - Mzenga: The rail line begins on the newly expanded Princess Margaret quays (Figure 3) on the western edge of Dar Es Salaam harbor and runs in a westerly direction. It parallels the existing East African rail system through the low coastal plains for approximately 36 nm to the town of Mzenga at 06-56S 038-44E. Two nm west of the harbor in the Kurasini district of Dar Es Salaam, a rail yard, a passenger station, an equipment depot, and a large locomotive and rollingstock repair shop have been constructed (Figure 4). Construction equipment and materials are stored here before being transshipped to various work camps along the line.

8. Mzenga - Kisaki: From Mzenga, the line runs in a southwesterly direction for approximately 75 nm to a point south of the town of Kisaki. This section of rail line has at least 40 bridges of varying lengths and five stations.

9. Kisaki - Ifakaru: The rail line runs approximately 67 nm in a southwesterly direction. There are three stations along this segment of track. A large construction camp (07-51S 036-53E) is approximately 3 nm northeast of Kisawasawa, and a three-span bridge crosses the great Ruaha River at 08-45-53S 035-29-41E (Figure 5).

10. Ifakaru - Lumumwe and Lumumwe - Makumbaku: These segments were seen on scattered-to-heavy cloud-covered photography. However, the sections of rail line that were seen on cloud-free photography were operational. The Ifakaru - Lumumwe segment runs in a southwesterly direction for approximately 73 nm, and the Lumumwe - Makumbaku segment runs west for approximately 50 nm.

11. Makumbaku - Tunduma: This 126-nm segment of the rail line consists of at least 55 nm of unconnected sections of railroad bed which were under construction. A major railroad yard and support facility (Figure 6) are situated in the fork of the Mbarali and Mlomboje Rivers approximately 2 nm north of Igawa.

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*Table 1. Partial List of Support Camps, Stations, and Support Facility*

|     | <u>Location</u> |            | <u>Description</u>                                         |
|-----|-----------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | 06-50-40S       | 039-14-30E | Storage and general purpose                                |
| 2.  | 06-42-30S       | 039-15-30E | 8-track yard                                               |
| 3.  | 06-55-12S       | 038-56-28E | Station/single-track siding, small yard under construction |
| 4.  | 06-55-09S       | 038-42-54E | Station/2-track siding                                     |
| 5.  | 07-06-55S       | 038-30-07E | Station/single-track siding                                |
| 6.  | 07-17-13S       | 038-19-27E | Station/2-track siding                                     |
| 7.  | 07-25-19S       | 038-04-31E | General-purpose gravel pit and support facility            |
| 8.  | 07-31-18S       | 037-50-42E | Station/2-track siding                                     |
| 9.  | 07-28-51S       | 037-36-37E | Station/2-track siding, small yard under construction      |
| 10. | 07-47-10S       | 037-02-34E | Station/2-track siding                                     |
| 11. | 07-56-32S       | 036-51-35E | General purpose                                            |
| 12. | 08-00-56S       | 036-49-46E | Gravel pit and support facilities                          |
| 13. | 08-03-55S       | 036-41-21E | Station/3-track siding                                     |
| 14. | 08-08-33S       | 036-23-48E | Station/single-track siding                                |
| 15. | 06-55-45S       | 039-02-37E | Station/single-track siding                                |
| 16. | 06-55-47S       | 038-56-22E | Station/2-track siding, small yard under construction      |
| 17. | 08-44-17S       | 034-21-56E | Large general purpose yard under construction              |
| 18. | 08-50-18S       | 034-49-45E | Station/multitrack under construction                      |

*Table 2. Partial List of Bridges Along Tan-Zam Rail Line*

|     | <u>Location</u> |            | <u>River Crossed</u>     |
|-----|-----------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1.  | 07-37-41S       | 037-31-00E | Msoro                    |
| 2.  | 07-46-45S       | 037-26-36E | Tributary of Great Ruaha |
| 3.  | 07-46-31S       | 037-06-45E | Great Ruaha              |
| 4.  | 07-47-27S       | 037-01-41E | Msolwa                   |
| 5.  | 08-03-57S       | 036-40-04E | Lumero                   |
| 6.  | 08-05-23S       | 036-29-16E | Idete                    |
| 7.  | 08-11-30S       | 036-18-14E | Ruipa                    |
| 8.  | 08-45-53S       | 035-29-41E | Ruaha                    |
| 9.  | 08-44-20S       | 034-22-32E | Mbarali                  |
| 10. | 08-44-11S       | 034-21-41E | Mlomboje                 |

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**REFERENCES**

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**MAPS OR CHARTS**

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